

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' **MILLENNIAL STAR.**

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH
UNTO THE CHURCHES.—*Rev. ii. 7.*

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**FOURTH GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, FROM THE GREAT SALT
LAKE VALLEY, IN THE STATE OF DESERET, TO THE SAINTS SCAT-
TERED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH.**

[METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS—CULTURE OF FRUIT—PEACE WITH THE INDIANS—EMIGRANTS TO THE MINES—ARRIVALS OF THE MAILS—CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH OF JULY—CLOSE OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY—THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIONEERS—VISIT TO SAN-PETE VALLEY—ABUNDANT CROPS IN ALL THE SETTLEMENTS—THE PRESENT AMOUNT AND CONTEMPLATED INCREASE OF POPULATION—THE BEST ROUTE FROM THE STATES—COMPLETION OF THE STATE AND BATH HOUSES—PLENTY OF MERCHANDIZE, EXCEPT GROCERIES—MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR FROM BEET—CITY OF OGDEN LOCATED—SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY—MONTHLY MAIL FROM THE STATES—INCORPORATION, MEMBERS, AND AGENTS OF THE P. E. FUND CO. LIBERAL DONATIONS THERETO AT CONFERENCE—ITS EXTENSIVE DESIGNS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR GATHERING THE POOR SAINTS—APPOINTMENTS OF THE APOSTLES—AMERICAN ELDERS TO OTHER NATIONS—BRITISH SAINTS SHOULD HONOR AND SUSTAIN THEIR OWN MINISTERS—DEATH OF BISHOP NEWEL K. WHITNEY—GENERAL GOOD HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.]

(From the Frontier Guardian.)

Greeting:

Beloved Brethren,—Another opportunity is presented, whereby we may communicate to you what great things the Lord has been doing for His people; for truly has He made the wilderness to bud and blossom like the rose, and the fruit thereof to come forth in its season, while the solitary places of the mountains of Ephraim are made vocal with the praises of Israel's God.

Since our last epistle of the 12th of April, our Heavenly Father has cheered our hearts, and strengthened our hands; and the earth has yielded an abundant harvest. On the twelfth of May, peach trees, of two years' growth, were in bloom; and several trees of the same age, in various parts of the city, alternately bloomed till the twenty-ninth, when currants, peas, beans, &c., put forth their blossoms, and nature smiled with the prospect of early

fruits; but on the 17th of June, the snow fell freely on the surrounding mountains, followed by a severe frost on the 18th and a slight one on the 19th, which injured the vines and the tender plants; more particularly on the lowest lands, yet we feel confident that this valley will yet produce the choicest fruits, accustomed to the latitudes, as it now does the richest vegetables.

The peaches in brother Young's garden grew finely, until they were accidentally destroyed by the sports of the children; and the California grape is flourishing beautifully in the same garden, and other places in the city.

On the 13th of May, we located a farm, one mile by two, near Jordan bridge, for the benefit of the poor, designing to build houses for the accommodation of all such as were not able to build for themselves; but on investigation we learned there were only two persons in the Valley who were unable to provide for themselves, and the

contemplated farm was converted into a pasture for the time being.

The Indians have been more quiet the present season than hitherto; though the Utes continue to steal our horses and cattle more or less, and threaten some. A band of Utes killed a small band of the Snake Indians, some time in the summer, and one white man by the name of Baker was killed by them on the twenty-ninth of May, between the Utah and San Pete valleys, though more recently they have been on their hunts, and manifested less personal hostility; yet for the safety of the people, the drill and discipline of the Nauvoo Legion is not neglected, for we have none to depend upon for protection but God, and his people; and God helps those who try to help themselves.

Emigrants from the States, and from almost all nations, passing through the States, bound for the Gold Mines, began to arrive here on the 27th of May, and have continued to arrive till the present time, though most of them have passed a month since. Their numbers have been much larger than the previous year. Several have arrived in our city, who had been left by their companions to die by the way side, and many companies and individuals have had contentions among themselves, not very creditable to civilized society, and which, contrary to the wishes of the magistracy of our State, they have been called upon to settle. It is the urgent wish of all the citizens of Deseret, that travellers would settle their own difficulties; or rather, that they would have no difficulties, so that our officers might pursue their daily avocations in peace. Were there no travellers in our midst, we might soon forget the name of law-suit. As a people, we have too much to do to attend to such matters.

Many scores, if not hundreds of these emigrants on arriving at the Valley, and hearing the gospel, in many instances for the first time, have been baptized for the remission of their sins, and gone no further, while others have witnessed our location, peace, union, and prosperity, and though not professing to believe the doctrine of Christ, are making their way home as fast as possible, to bring their families hither, where they can enjoy health, in a land of civil and religious liberty, where they find themselves free to do right.

June 8th, a mail was received from Kanessville Post Office, per hand of Tho-

mas S. Williams, containing the first authentic intelligence from the States this season, and on the 14th commenced the printing of the "Deseret News," the first periodical in the State of Deseret.

The Nauvoo Legion, in uniform, honored the 4th of July with a public parade, which closed with a patriotic address by the Governor of the State.

The Topographical Engineers have closed their surveys for the season, and returned to Washington, as we are informed, by way of Arkansas. Rumours having been circulated in the States, that the Engineers had been received with coldness, and the object of the Expedition had been forcibly opposed by the inhabitants of the Valley, we here give extracts from a letter of Captain Stansbury, (President of the Corps) to the Editor of the "Deseret News," dated July 1st, 1850, concerning the matter. "How the rumour became prevalent, I am ignorant,

"I take pleasure in declaring that nothing can be further from the truth. We were received by the President and public authorities with the greatest courtesy, both officially and personally, and will remember with gratitude the many tokens of kindness and regard we have received from them and the citizens of the place.

"Every facility has been studiously afforded us for the prosecution of our duties; instruments of science frankly and gratuitously loaned, and the able and faithful assistance obtained from their commencement here, of a gentleman, well known as a fearless advocate of your doctrines, and a prominent and influential member of your community." The whole letter is in the 4th No. of the "Deseret News," and a copy of the same may be found in every newspaper in the United States, that has circulated the rumours which drew forth the letter, provided the editor thereof is an honest man.

The third anniversary of the Pioneers into the Valley was celebrated on the 24th of July, by the Public Assembly, in a manner worthy of the occasion, with orations, addresses, songs of praise and thanksgiving, and music, in which the Saints and Pilgrims to the mines seemed alike to participate. A synopsis of the proceedings were published in the 7, 8, and 9th numbers of the News.

On the last of July, brothers Young and Kimball left home on a visit to Utah and San Pete, and returned on the 12th

of August; having found a place for a good settlement, located a city at San Pete, and noticed several intermediate sites, worthy the attention of smaller colonies, which we anticipate will be settled this fall, making a pleasant and safe communication from this to our most southern habitations. The San Pete settlement will also be strengthened, and others will spread on the North, to, and beyond Ogden, so that when the emigration of this season shall close, there will be a continued line of villages at short distances, for more than 200 miles in extent; and a company is already chartered by the General Assembly of Deseret, for the purpose of running a regular line of coaches between Ogden and San Pete, to commence as early next spring as the travelling will permit, and to be extended as fast as the settlements extend; also, from the capital to Tuille county, by way of the Great Salt Lake Bath.

The Government of the Union has been very tardy in rendering any facilities of communication between themselves and the State of Deseret, and having been left to our own resources for information, on the second of August, brother John Y. Green was dispatched to Kaneshville with a mail, and on the 15th Elder O. Hyde arrived with a mail from Kane Post Office; also, bringing with him the Frontier Guardian, the only file of newspapers we are in possession of, from any part of the earth for the past year.

The weather has been more cloudy, the nights warmer, and the showers more frequent in the heat of summer, and vegetation more rapid this season, than hitherto, consequently, artificial irrigation has been less needed; which has been a great blessing; for, during the irrigation season, there were not men enough in the Valley to water the immense fields of grain, had it been as dry as some previous seasons.

The crops have been abundant in all the settlements of Deseret this season; and we have made every exertion to have them secured for the benefit of all; and although, from the best information obtained, we have reason to expect that our population will be strengthened, nearly, if not quite, fifteen thousand, this season, yet we are confident, if all will be prudent, there will be seed grain, and bread sufficient to sustain the whole, until another harvest.

The estimated population of fifteen thousand inhabitants in Deseret, the past year, having raised grain sufficient to sustain the

thirty thousand for the coming year, inspires us confidently to believe, that the thirty thousand the coming year, can raise sufficient for sixty thousand the succeeding year, and to this object and end our energies will be exerted, to double our population annually, by the assistance of the Perpetual Emigrating Poor Fund, and otherwise provide for the sustenance of that population.

Viewing the gathering of Israel, which produces an increased population in the vallies of the mountains, an important part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and one of the most important at the present time; we shall send few or no elders abroad to preach the gospel this fall; but instruct them to raise grain and build houses, and prepare for the saints, that they may come in flocks, like doves to their windows; and we say, arise! to your wagons and your tents, O, scattered Israel! ye saints of the Most High! rich and poor, and gather to the State of Deseret, bringing your ploughs and drills, your reapers and gleaners, your threshers and cleaners, of the most approved patterns, so that one man can do the labour of twenty, in the wheat field, and we will soon send the elders abroad by hundreds and thousands to a harvest of souls among all nations, and the inhabitants of the earth shall speedily hear of the salvation prepared by Israel's God for His people.

Many inhabitants of the city are leaving their good homes this fall, and taking up land in the country, preparatory for extensive farming operations; and many who are now arriving in our midst, are gathering in companies of tens, twenties, and fifties, to act in concert for mutual protection and assistance, in opening new fields, establishing new settlements, and in preparing to feed the friends we are calling home.

Our messengers who went east, this fall, to visit the camps of the saints, emigrating hither, and report to us their situation, have discovered a new route from Green River, south of the old road, to the Pacific Springs, on which the feed and water are improved; also a new route on the north side of the Sweet Water River; which together with the road on the entire north side of the Platte River, from its mouth westward, as located all the distance, and traveled the most of the way by our pioneers in 1847, is decidedly the best route for the Saints from the States to Deseret.

Crossing the Missouri River above the mouth of the Platte, and passing the Loupe Fork, which is the only river of much consequence to cross on the north of the Platte; also of the Sweet Water, except near its source in the mountains, and there are no natural obstructions on the route till you arrive at Green River; where a ferry may be expected at high water, and good fording is always found late in the season.

Our State House is enclosed; the walls are nearly ready for plastering; and we have no doubt but the several apartments will be ready for their several uses: the sitting of the General Assembly, High School, Printing Office, and Tithing, Post and Recording Offices, the coming winter. The Warm Spring Bath House is so near completion, the visitants are accommodated at the baths, and daily and hourly carriages are running from thence to various parts of the city.

There are several extensive store-houses completed, and near completion in our city, and goods sufficient in quantity and variety, with the exception of groceries, for the necessities of the people, till another season.

Sugar is not only a beverage, a luxury, but it is in its nature and substance, one of the component parts of our animal structure; and a free use thereof is calculated to promote health; and could the Saints have a more abundant supply, they would need less meat. Should every person in Deseret consume one-third of an ounce of sugar per day, through the coming year, it would require about one hundred and twenty tons, more than has or will be brought by our merchants this season; and according to the best estimate we can make, three hundred tons would be consumed in this State the next year, if it could be obtained.

We anticipate some relief in the sugar market next season, from the culture of the sugar beet, and its manufacture, but this can make but little impression the first year, as we are not informed of more than one or two bushels of the genuine sugar beet seed in the valley, though we know of no country where a greater quantity of saccharine matter is produced in vegetables than this.

About the middle of August, Brothers Young and Kimball, accompanied by Brother Hyde and others, visited Weber county, and located and gave the plan for the city of Ogden,—near Ogden river, and between that and the Weber river.

The General Assembly has held adjourned sessions, occasionally through the summer. The sittings have been very brief, though much important business has been transacted, important to our young and flourishing State. When the constitution of Deseret was adopted, and its boundaries were established therein, the actual settlers of Deseret out-numbered Western California as five to three. Notwithstanding which, a strong exertion has been made by Congress to receive California into the Union; to the exclusion of Deseret, though our petition for admission was equally before them.

* * * * *

Kane Post Office, in Pottawattamie, is the nearest office to this place, and through which all our business has been transacted with the States and foreign countries. A United States Mail arrived here on the 9th instant, from Independence, Missouri, by which we received no news, except through the carrier, by whom we learned that a contract existed for bringing through the Mail once a month, and that President Taylor was dead.

Communications to and from our friends abroad have been very uncertain in their transmission, and so far as it can be, it is desirable that valuable documents should be remitted by private conveyance.

The Perpetual Emigrating Funds have been judiciously appropriated the past year, under the immediate application of our agent, Bishop Edward Hunter, who is near this place, on his return from Pottawattamie, with a large company of the poor Saints.

Our annual fall Conference was commenced on the 6th of September, one month earlier than usual, so that the brethren who were obliged to go to the States, need not be exposed on their travels so late in the season; but circumstances, beyond our control, have caused unexpected delay, which, in the end, will result in good.

The Conference was fully attended, and much important business was transacted, as will be seen by reference to the minutes which are published, the most important items dwelt upon, were the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, Education, and a universal sustaining of the general officers of the Church, and of the different quorums thereof, except that Brother Parry was added to the High Council of this Stake of Zion, in place of Brother Grover, who is absent.

Preparations are making for the establishment of a parent school, or a school for qualifying teachers, for primary and infant schools throughout the State; for enclosing the University lands, a plot of about six hundred acres, directly east of the City; and for every thing else which may tend to facilitate the improvement of the old and young, in a knowledge of the arts, sciences and general intelligence.

Several thousand dollars were subscribed to the Perpetual Fund during Conference; and several individuals subscribed one thousand each. Since that time the Perpetual Emigrating Company, of not less than thirteen members, consisting of a president, and assistants, has been incorporated by an Ordinance of the General Assembly of the State of Deseret, with power to choose their own officers, to wit: a president, secretary, treasurer, recorder, and agents; and transact all business necessary for the furtherance of emigration; in accordance with the general principles of transacting business among States and Nations.

Brigham Young was unanimously elected President of the Company, who have since completed their organization by electing Willard Richards, Secretary; Newel K. Whitney, Treasurer; and Thomas Bullock, Recorder; every member of the Company to give good and sufficient bonds for the faithful performance of their several duties; and all the Company is responsible for the acts of its officers and agents.

It is confidently reported that there is a great failure of the gold dust, the present season, in California; and many of the donations made to the Perpetual Fund, have and will be made in live stock, grain, &c., and should a proper proportion of cash be wanting, the Company will issue their paper, for the purpose of fitting out emigrants abroad, which paper will always be good, as a sufficiency of the stock will be retained, in deposit, by the Company to redeem that paper at any moment; and any person coming to this place can, with more convenience, bring the paper than flour, stock, or even gold; which will make it an object for the brethren who have the means, and travellers bound for Deseret, to secure the Company's paper, wherever they can find it; for with that paper they can get such articles as travellers most need, when money will not purchase them in this market.

The Twelve Apostles are mostly in their several fields of labor abroad. Elder Orson Hyde has been with us a few weeks on a visit, and is about to return to Kanesville, and continue his labors in the States. Elders P. P. Pratt, Geo. A. Smith, and E. T. Benson are at this place; and, with Wilford Woodruff, who is journeying hither, will spend the winter in the Valley. Orson Pratt and Franklin D. Richards are in England. John Taylor, who left for France, Lorenzo Snow, for Italy, Erastus Snow, for Denmark, last fall, have not been heard from since they arrived at their destinations. Amasa Lyman is daily expected, with a large company of the brethren from California. Charles C. Rich is expected to continue his labors in California, and commence a settlement with such of the brethren as wish to tarry there, in the southern part of the Territory. Orson Pratt is expected here, as early next spring as circumstances will permit; otherwise, the Apostles are expected to continue in their several appointments, according to previous instruction; extending their labors into other countries, as opportunity presents, and as they shall be directed by the Holy Spirit.

We received a long and cheering communication from Elder O. Pratt by Elder Hyde, and we feel to say to the Saints in England, lift up your hearts and rejoice, for the Lord hath done a great work in your midst, and speedily a greater responsibility must rest upon your shoulders. The reason why a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and among his own kin, is the want of faith and confidence among his countrymen. Immense treasures of time and means have been expended by the American brethren, to extend the work in Great Britain; and the time has now come when we must begin to have a care for other nations, and leave you to prosecute the work begun in your midst, without continuing to send you Elders as heretofore: God is no respecter of persons, and he is just as ready and willing to qualify your own Elders to preach and preside over Conferences, as to qualify men from abroad; and he will do it if you will give them your faith and prayers, and honor them in their calling, as you have done the foreign Elders.

We do not wish the American Elders to leave England, unless they shall particularly desire it, and that desire shall be approved by the Presidency at Liverpool;

and we suggest to that Presidency the propriety of electing presiding Elders of Conferences from the native brethren, as soon as circumstances shall render it convenient; and begin to initiate them into the practical duties of their calling, leaving the few American brethren more at liberty to visit the conferences, and attend to general instructions.

Presiding Bishop Newel K. Whitney, died very suddenly on the 23rd instant; Bishop Whitney was one of the oldest members of the Church, and we have to deplore the loss of an exemplary member, and a most upright and thorough business man; and while we thus mourn his absence, we are again reminded that the Church of Christ is built upon no man; and that God is able to do his own work. Bishop Partridge was the first presiding bishop in the Church in these last days, and died several years since; he was succeeded by Bishop Whitney, who is now gone to the world of spirits; and the voice to all is, be ye also ready. The health of the people in the Valley is generally good: there have been a few deaths, mostly of emigrants.

Every possible exertion will be made on our part, and that of the Emigrating Company, to extend the usefulness of the Perpetual Fund in gathering the Saints; and it is important that those who anticipate help therefrom, should understand that the means sent forth are, and will be designed to furnish teams, almost or quite exclusively; and even the cases in which wagons will be furnished will be rare. The poor who can live in the States with little clothing, and little or no groceries, &c., can live equally as cheap on the road; and when once here, can procure the comforts of life by their industry. Souls are the articles for the Perpetual Fund to gather home, and that, too, as many as possible; and other things will be attended to in their time and place.

We are under obligation by covenant, firstly to apply the Perpetual Funds gathered in this country, to bring home the poor Saints who were driven from Nauvoo; and as soon as this shall be accomplished, we shall be ready to extend our exertions to other places and countries. Let the European Saints continue to add to their Perpetual Funds, which we doubt not they have commenced according to our previous counsel; and as soon as sufficient shall be collected to remove a suitable com-

pany, we will give instructions concerning its application, and emigration will commence.

One year ago and the Perpetual Fund was not instituted. Returns have not been completed this fall; but so far as we can judge, they will not now fall much short of twenty thousand dollars in the Valley. Let the Saints abroad imitate the example of the Saints here, according to their ability, and let this work continue to go forward with the same progressive ratio it has hitherto done, and the time will be short, when all the poor and oppressed of Zion will feel its cheering influence, and the cry need not be heard, "I would go up to the House of the Lord, but I have not the means."

The Perpetual Emigrating Company consists of Brigham Young, President: Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Orson Hyde, Geo. A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Jedediah M. Grant, Daniel H. Wells, Willard Snow, Edward Hunter, Daniel Spencer, Thomas Bullock, John Brown, William Crosby, Amasa Lyman, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Young, and P. P. Pratt, Assistants; Daniel Spencer, Treasurer, in place of N. K. Whitney, deceased. Orson Hyde and John Brown have been appointed travelling agents, and will be in the States the ensuing winter. Orson Pratt and Franklin D. Richards have been appointed travelling agents; are located at Liverpool; and their particular field of operations, at present, will be the British Islands.

Thus, brethren, we have given you a brief history of the situation and prospects of the Church in the Wilderness, and the wishes of our Heavenly Father, as manifested by His spirit dwelling in us, for your edification, comfort, and salvation. The signs of the times are highly portentous of a mighty and short work in these last days; and we pray God, the Eternal Father, that he will inspire your hearts with humility, faith, and patience, and diligence in every means within your reach to help roll that work forward, that you may speedily be found in Zion, rejoicing with us, and the Gospel be proclaimed to the ends of the earth in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
WILLARD RICHARDS.

Great Salt Lake City, Deseret,
September 27, 1850.

EXTRACTS FROM CAPTAIN STANSBURY'S REPORT OF THE SURVEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTRY.

[The following extracts from Captain Stansbury's report of his survey in the Great Salt Lake country, although not as timely or as complete as we could wish, we feel unwilling to let pass without an insertion in the STAR, as most of its readers are deeply interested in learning of that new, and until recently, unexplored country. It will be borne in mind, that those portions herein spoken of, are on the western or desert side of the lake: while the capital of the new territory, and its numerous rich settlements, are on the East and South sides. Captain Stansbury is now in Washington, completing his report to the government, and we hope to be able at no distant day to furnish our readers with something more ample and interesting from that new and wonderful portion of the earth.—Ed.]

"After completing the reconnoissance of Cache valley, we returned to our camp on Bear river.—When Colonel Porter returned to his post, the provision train was despatched down the east shore of the Salt Lake, under Lieutenant Howland, of the Rifles, with orders to report to Lieutenant Gunison, whilst I, accompanied by Dr. Blake, with a party of four men, sixteen mules, addressed myself to make the tour around the western side of the lake. This trip was, by many of the old mountaineers, considered rather hazardous, especially at the late season of the year. Many of them had tried it, but none had ever succeeded in achieving it. The country was represented to be barren in the extreme, and almost, if not entirely, destitute of fresh water. In addition to which, some disturbances and ill-feeling had taken place between the whites and the Snake or Snoshone Indians, arising out of a gross outrage which had been wantonly inflicted upon the latter by a band of unprincipled emigrants, in which several of their men were killed, and women violated and murdered. I was determined, however, to proceed; and having provided ourselves with some India-rubber bags for packing water, in case of necessity, on the nineteenth of October, we commenced our journey. We were also provided with one soldiers' tent, and one wall tent-fly, for protection from rains, but they were of little use, as but in one or two instances could poles be procured for stretching them, so utterly destitute of timber was the region through which we passed. The journey occupied us until the 8th of November.

"We found that the whole western shore of the lake consists of immense level plains of soft mud, inaccessible within many miles of the water's edge to the feet of mules or horses, being traversed frequently by meandering rills of salt and

sulphur water, which apparently sunk and seem to imbue and saturate the whole soil, rendering it mirey and treacherous. These plains are but little elevated above the present level of the lake, and have, without doubt, at one time, not very long since, formed a part of it; for it is evident that a rise of but a few inches will at once cover the greater portion of those extensive areas of land with water again. I do not think I hazard much by saying that a rise of one foot in the lake, would nearly, if not quite, double its present area.

"The plains are, for the most part, entirely denuded of vegetation, except occasional patches of *Artemisia* and 'greasewood,' and they glitter in the sunlight, presenting the appearance of water so perfectly, that it is almost impossible for one to convince himself that he is not in the immediate shore of the lake itself. This is owing to the crystallization of minute portions of salt on the surface of the mud, and the oozy alime occasioned by the complete saturation of the soil with moisture. From this cause, also, arises a mirage, which is greater here than I have ever witnessed elsewhere, distorting objects in the most grotesque manner, and giving rise to optical illusions almost beyond belief. I anticipate serious annoyance from this cause, in making the triangulation."

"In an estimated distance of one hundred and fifty miles, on one part of the route, fresh water and grass were found *only in one spot*, about midway of this stretch, and we were obliged to subsist our animals, that is, to keep life in them, by serving them out a pint of water each, night and morning, taken from the India-rubber bags packed upon their backs. The first part of this desert was about seventy-five miles in extent, and occupied us two days and a half to cross it, traveling all day and the greater part of the night; walking a great portion of the way

to relieve the mules, which began to sink under the want of sustenance and water.

"In the latter portion of this first desert we crossed a field of solid salt, which lay incrustated upon the level mud plain, so thick that it bore up the mules loaded with their packs so perfectly that they walked upon it as if it had been a sheet of solid ice, slightly covered with snow. The whole plain was as level as a floor. We estimated this field to be at least ten miles in length, by seven in width, and the thickness of the salt at from one-half to three-quarters of an inch. A strip of some three miles in width had been previously crossed, but it was not thick, nor hard enough to prevent the animals from sinking through it into the mud at every step. The salt in the solid field was perfectly crystalized, and, where it had not become mixed with the soil, was as white and fine as the best specimens of salina table salt. Some of it was collected and preserved.

"After crossing the field of salt, we struck upon a fine little stream of running water, with plenty of grass, lying at the foot of a range of mountains, which seemed to form the western boundary of the immediate valley of the lake. Here we were obliged to halt for three days to give our animals an opportunity to recruit. The latter part of the desert was about seventy miles in extent, and was passed in two days, by prolonging our marches far into the night. Had we not found grass and water midway of this barren waste, both animals and men must have perished.

"We were, as I have reason to believe, the first party of white men that ever succeeded in making the entire circuit of the lake by land. I have understood that it was once circumnavigated by canoes, in early times, by some trappers, in search

of beaver, but no attempt by land has ever been successful.

"From the knowledge gained by this expedition, I am of opinion that the size of the lake has been much exaggerated; and from observation, and what I have learned from the Mormons, who have made one or two excursions upon it in a small skiff, I am induced to believe that its depth has been overrated. That it has no outlet, is now demonstrated beyond doubt, and I am convinced, from what I have seen, that it can never be of the slightest use for the purpose of navigation. The water, for miles out from the shore, wherever I have seen it, is but a few inches in depth; and if there be any deep water, it must be in the middle. The Utah river, (or the Jordan, as the Mormons call it), is altogether too insignificant and too crooked to be of any use commercially. The greatest depth of the Utah Lake that we have found is sixteen feet; so that, for the purposes of a connected line of navigation, neither the river nor the lakes can be of the slightest utility. Such, at least, is my present impression. Further examination of Salt Lake may, perhaps, modify this opinion with regard to the latter. The river connecting these two lakes is forty-eight miles in length.

"The delays and difficulties encountered by Capt. Stanbury's party in conducting their triangulation of a district of country extending two degrees in latitude and more than a degree in longitude, may be conceived from the fact that almost every stick of timber used in the construction of fourteen triangular stations, thus far erected, has cost from twenty to thirty miles travel of a six-mule team, and that nearly if not all the water will have to be transported along with the different parties for their daily use."—*Intelligencer*.

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

FEBRUARY 15, 1831.

It is with great pleasure we are enabled to lay before our readers, the General Epistle of the First Presidency, in the present number of the STAR. We are sure that every soul whose face is Zion-ward, will be made to rejoice by perusing it. The bounteous Providence of a kind and faithful Father, is richly in favor of the Saints; though he suffers one after another of the veterans of truth to depart from the sorrows of mortal life to minister in holier spheres, and escape the evils which are to come upon the earth. The health of the people is generally good. The crops of the past season were abundant in all their settlements; they have a sufficiency of merchandise, (except groceries), and

only two persons were found in the Valley who were unable to provide for themselves the comforts of life. Well may be it be said, "The set time to favor Zion has come;" and thanks be to God the tokens already appear, of a glad day when there shall be no poor in Zion, when all who will walk in the law of God shall rejoice together, and glorify his name for their deliverance from degradation, wretchedness, and want, which abound in great Babylon.

The great leading and absorbing topic is, the work of the last dispensation—the gathering of the Saints. "*Souls are the articles for the Perpetual Fund to gather home, and that, too, as many as possible.*" This subject seems to command the attention of the Church generally; and not only is the influence of the Church brought to bear upon it, but the General Assembly has seen fit to add its legislative authority to legalize the transactions of the company. So deep and fervent is the feeling upon this subject, that whereas the first year some donated a 100 dollars each, the second year records donations increased to 1000 dollars each.

Dear Brethren, in the British Isles, your poverty, hardships, sorrows, faithfulness, liberality, and prayers, have entered into the ears of the Lord, and of your brethren in the councils of Zion; they have sunk deep into their hearts, and their piteous regard for you is manifest by stretching out their hands to your deliverance. It is to be regretted that we could not have received the proper instructions in time to have commenced this glorious work, the present emigration season; but we rejoice to inform you, that most of the conferences have made a good beginning in their donations to the Fund: and we hope all will do a laudable part in this stupendous work. Let the presiding Elders of conferences and branches be diligent to emulate the spirit of the First Presidency, and teach the Saints not to slacken their diligence upon this subject the coming summer, and we will venture the prediction, that early in 1852, we may commence to send out the poor Saints, by hundreds; yes, by ship load or loads with the Perpetual Emigration Fund, which will cause a thrill of joy to all the churches.

The noble-minded poor saints, although overjoyed at deliverance from their present unpropitious circumstances in this land, and location among the saints in America, will feel unwilling to accept the boon without making returns to the fund for the amount used in their emigration. All should feel so; and with a noble, saintly spirit, be determined to work their own salvation through the world, and help to build up the church instead of expecting the church to build them up. So long as there shall be a poor saint to be gathered by the fund, every one should study to increase it, both rich and poor, and not allow themselves to diminish it by any means. The rules and regulations of the company are wisely adapted to this end. All persons who may be gathered by it, will be required to refund the amount used for them, as soon as their circumstances will enable them to do so, and their time will be made subject to the disposal of the company *until such amount is paid*. Let no one misunderstand us upon this subject—the funds of the company cannot be squandered, nor diverted to any other purpose; their object is to gather the greatest possible number of *faithful saints* to Zion, and as soon as practicable. Should there be any wearing the name of Saints, who have not the confidence to commit themselves, and their time, to the direction of those whom God has appointed as the shepherds and bishops of their souls; they had better content themselves to remain in this country until they can help themselves away, or until they acquire such confidence in their brethren.

We shall seek for such as have faith toward God, and toward their brethren. Such as have sought the advancement of the Church, by administering to the Elders, and otherwise manifesting, that the Kingdom of God, and the righteousness thereof, are the

first objects of their lives. With such the Lord will build up Zion, he will write his law in their hearts, and make them a peculiar people unto himself. He will cause their light to shine forth to the ends of the earth, and Kings and Rulers shall bring their glory and their riches to them. Therefore, let all who wish the poor joy in the Lord contribute to swell the "Fund," and if there are any of the wealthier brethren, who, after recounting their duties, can say with the young lawyer of old, all these have I done from my youth up, what lack I yet? We would answer, If thou wilt be perfect, make a generous donation according to the means God has given you, to the Perpetual Emigration Fund, and flee with your household to the mountains. Then the blessing of the Most High shall be upon your persons and your substance—they shall multiply in your hands, and you shall have Life.

Received from a gentleman in the East Indies, £5 as a donation to the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

PRESIDENT ORSON PRATT and family, embarked on board the "Ellen Maria," on Thursday, the thirtieth ultimo, but on account of adverse winds, the ship anchored in the river until Saturday morning, the second inst., when she put to sea before a fair breeze and in delightful weather, having on board 378 Latter-day Saints, under the presidency of Elder G. D. Watt, and destined for the Great Salt Lake City, Great Basin, North America. Thus has Elder Pratt terminated a most useful and important mission in these Islands; many thousands regret his departure from so important a sphere of usefulness, and many will cherish his acquaintance and his memory, which they have contracted by the perusal of his writings only, with the utmost fondness and faithfulness, while they can now say with one of old, "whom having not seen, we love." Although Elder Pratt was rendered eminently useful, and seemed to possess to an extraordinary degree the spirit and power of an Apostle to his fellow man in this country, his labours will, we doubt not, be attended with manifold greater advantage to Zion's cause in bringing his talents, and influence, to bear upon the education and qualification of many faithful virtuous minds who have, by the violence of oppression, and the malignancy of persecution, been driven from their homes, to spend years in an unsettled transient state; which has prevented their attention being given to those branches of education so necessary to qualify men for public life in the literary and scientific world. Now the Saints have found a resting place from those goading perplexities occasioned by grim want staring them in the face for a morsel of daily bread, or an article of clothing to prevent suffering from cold, a wagon or a tent to protect them from the inclement elements, to a certain extent. Their fields bring forth in strength—their settlements abound with merchandize, and they are becoming comfortably housed. Now we see the leading spirits in their midst, bending their minds and bringing their potent influences to bear upon the subject of education. In this department of Zion's upbuilding, Professor Pratt will undoubtedly find a genial sphere of exercise, for a time, which will prove useful in a greatly multiplied ratio of comparison with his labours abroad.

The dispensation of the Gospel which we are now engaged in establishing, will require its ministers to stand in the most prominent portions of society. The experience of the past twenty years, agrees with that of former ages, that a liberal education is not indispensable to the success of those who are called to establish the Kingdom of God among men; but that revealed truth is abundantly competent in uneducated hands, to maintain a forced march, and carry conquest to the very heart of superstition's citadel, in bold defiance of the allied powers of darkness. Seeing then, that the weapons of our warfare render the illiterate invincible to

their foes, how much more triumphantly glorious, may be the conquests of those, who know at once the position of their enemy, the weakness of their defence, and the utter inutility of their weapons; with confidence the educated man can enter the field of public strife, and with his tongue or pen, produce the unanswerable arguments that will silence his opponents; while the uneducated and illiterate must go forth trembling, bearing precious seed, though he also fails not to return, bringing his sheaves with him. Some have supposed, because of heaven's policy in selecting fishermen, publicans, tent-makers, ploughmen, carpenters' sons, and men from the humbler walks of life, generally, that education was not only non-essential to the work of the ministry, but rather objectionable in the sight of God! Not so. He has chosen thus to shew the world of mankind that his wisdom, and power, are vastly greater than the wisdom of men, that they, by their wisdom and study, cannot obtain a knowledge of Him, nor of his ways, as the study and erudition of the past two thousand years has abundantly demonstrated in the eyes of the whole world. But he has at one time chosen a Moses, who was skilled in all the learning of his age; at another time, a Paul, who was master of divinity, and skilled in all the religious pretensions of the age in which he lived, from which we learn, that neither education nor ignorance, are pre-requisites for the work of the Lord, but a *willing and obedient heart*.

The rising majesty of the gospel in the earth, admonishes us, that soon its ministers must appear in its defence before the higher classes of society; for it must arise with irresistible dignity and sway, until it has brought into consideration, the very summit of earthly greatness and excellence.

The faithful Elders who desire to live and help to roll on the stone that is to fill the whole earth as a Kingdom, will be diligent in treasuring up such information as will most efficiently qualify them for their work, as the Lord has said, "seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek knowledge both by study and by faith," that you may be prepared to stand before Regents and Chancellors, Lords and Nobles, Kings and Emperors, for "things which have not been told them they must consider." This appears to be the spirit of the Presidency in Zion; no longer tossed about upon the sea of persecution, they now concentrate their efforts in the best means to qualify the ministry for the great and glorious undertaking, of carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and making the people the choicest of society when gathered home. In view of this, the Saints will feel that, although their loss is great in the absence of Elder Pratt, his aid in Zion will be gain to the cause of truth. We cannot close this paragraph without noticing a very striking fact in connexion with the close of his labors here. The Liverpool Saints, desirous to express their sense of obligation for his personal services in their midst, sought his mind, as to the most agreeable entertainment for a farewell party, when it was suggested that no *strong* or *hot drinks* be allowed on the occasion, in strict conformity to the wise counsels of the Lord, as given in the "Doctrine and Covenants," but that a collation of fruits and pure water, should accompany the spontaneous effusions of those who should speak on the occasion. This, like the artist's finishing touch, gave grace and expression to his entire mission, leaving an example for the Saints, not only to keep the commandments of God, but live by "every word that proceeds from his mouth." Every heart seemed glad, though tempered with a becoming regret at his departure; and it were to be wished that more of our presiding brethren could have been present, and taken from the altar a live coal, with which to kindle the sacred flame in the midst of their conferences at home, as some who were present expressed their determination to do. The love of the Saints for Elder Pratt will be known by their diligence to obey his counsels.

ELDER Thomas Smith's desire is granted him, and Elder Claudius V. Spencer is appointed to succeed him in the presidency of the Norwich Conference.

FAREWELL REMARKS OF ELDER J. W. CUMMINGS,

At Sheffield, November 24th, 1850.

Beloved Saints,—As I am about to leave my field of labour, and return to the land of Zion to mingle with the Saints in the valleys of Ephraim—I feel to say a few words to the Saints of the Sheffield Conference over which I have had the honor of presiding the past year. I entered upon my duties, as president of this Conference, the first day of January last. Since that time, I have been labouring in this Conference to the best of my ability; and I rejoice, to say, the Lord has blessed my labors and crowned them with success. Since I commenced my labors in this Conference, there has been added by baptism 700, to God be all the glory.

The officers, for the most part, have listened to, and carried into effect the instruction I have given them from time to time. The travelling Elders, without one exception, have acted in concert with me. The Presidents of branches have also acted their part in rolling on the great work in this part of the vineyard.

I wish to speak a few words upon the order of the Church of Christ. The right of a president of a conference to nominate men for office, or suggest officers to preside over branches, has been questioned by some. In order to fully understand the matter we have only to refer to the Lord's manner of doing business. Twenty years since there was not a man on the earth that could lead the human family to celestial glory. About that time God spoke from the heavens, sent angels to confer the holy priesthood upon man, the Lord did not ask the pope, bishop, or any other man whom he should appoint to usher in this dispensation, but he appointed Joseph Smith, and the angels ordained him, and gave him authority to call and ordain others to assist in the work of the ministry, and thus was the Kingdom of God organized in these last days. The first Presidency of this Church has a perfect right to call and send forth whom they please to preach the gospel, and in like manner has the president of the British isles an undoubted right to appoint such men as he deems proper to preside over the various conferences under his

jurisdiction; and no man has a right to question that authority, for it is God's appointment. In like manner has the president of a Conference a right to appoint a man to preside over a branch, or travel in the Conference over which he presides. And when a man is appointed to preside, the Saints are called upon to sanction that appointment, and every Saint has a perfect right to vote for, or against it; but if they should all vote against it, it would not invalidate the legality of that appointment: as Elder Spencer observed in the council last night, "a man is at liberty to vote himself to hell if he chooses." I expect that Lucifer acted upon his agency when he rebelled and was cast out. The government of God is a *Theocracy*, it therefore differs from all other governments. I regret that some of the officers of the Sheffield branch should manifest such ignorance upon the subject; therefore let them learn the order of this kingdom, lest they should be found fighting against God, and like Lucifer, be hurled from their places. Therefore let Elder Roper, who has this day been appointed to preside over the Sheffield branch, magnify his high and holy calling, and see that iniquity, and the spirit of division do not creep into the branch, and when you see a spirit of that kind manifesting itself, take decisive measures against it, and fear no man, but do your duty and you shall be blest.

I wish to say a word on emigration. Some fear we are going to counsel the saints to go to America to famish. It is the counsel for all the Saints to gather as soon as they can procure the means to do so; and if they have the means to go no further than St. Louis, they had better go there than stay in this part of the country, for they can get the means there to prosecute the remainder of their journey much sooner than they can here; and no one need want the necessaries of life there, that will labour, and those that are not willing to labour for a living, had better stop in this country, for they are not wanted there.

The Saints have been made to rejoice

in the gifts of the Holy Ghost, which have from time to time been made manifest in their midst. The Lord has blessed us, and we have rejoiced together. The sick have been healed, the blind made to see, the lame to walk; these manifestations of the power of God you have witnessed, through the ordinances of His house. Therefore, you have realized the fulfilment of the promise of our Lord and Master, *these signs shall follow them that believe, &c.*, which has strengthened your faith, and increased your joy in the Lord. How thankful ought we to be to the Lord as Saints, for privileging us to live in an age to enjoy such glorious blessings. To live on the earth when God should set his hand to gather Israel, for the last time, and bring in the Millennium is what has been desired by kings and prophets, that have long since passed from this stage of action. This generation is blessed with the privilege, but how little do they appreciate the blessing.

By the lamp of revelation, we are enabled to discover the ignorance of the religious world. By it we are enabled to behold them in darkness, ignorant, and naked, for they are destitute of the knowledge of God. But we should remember that a few years since, we were in the same deplorable condition. We also were ignorant of the great plan of salvation. Twenty years since God made known the gospel to Joseph Smith, by the ministering of angels, and the revelations of the Holy Spirit. God at that time restored the Holy Priesthood to man on earth, organised his kingdom with apostles, and prophets, &c., &c. Since that time hundreds of thousands have been made to rejoice in the knowledge of God, having received the gift of the Holy Spirit, which has shown them things past, present, and to come. To establish the kingdom of God upon the earth, in these last days, has cost the best blood that has flowed through human veins since the crucifixion of Christ—Joseph Smith, the man God chose, to usher in this dispensation, and his brother Hyrum, have sealed their testimony with their blood. Many of the Saints have also laid down their lives for the gospel's sake; *they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.*

The flood gates of hell have been opened, and have poured forth their foul calumnies against the servants of God, which have been heralded forth from

press and pulpit as upon the wings of the wind. Yet the kingdom of God is onward in its march, and bids defiance to earth and hell; for it is founded upon the rock Revelation, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is its maker and builder. As the prophet Daniel has said it will break in pieces all other kingdoms and systems, and will stand for ever! The world for the last twenty years has been trying to traduce and vilify the character of the servants of God, but in every instance has failed to substantiate its base accusations. The Saints stand exonerated before God, angels, and all good men; while their calumniators gradually sink beneath the ponderous weight of their own sins and corruptions, and if they do not speedily repent will go down to perdition, and receive their portion with the hypocrite and unbeliever.

The apostles and prophets of the nineteenth century, like those of former times, have suffered martyrdom for the gospel's sake! The Saints have been driven from city to city, and from state to state, and after suffering the most unparalleled persecution—the martyrdom of their best men—having been exiled and at last compelled to seek an asylum in the wilderness, amidst the snow-capt mountains of Ephraim. There they have established Zion in the tops of the mountains; unfurled the banner of freedom to the breeze, and bid all nations, sects, parties, kindreds, tongues, and people welcome to her peaceful habitations.

There, and there alone, can the poor weary Latter-day Saint rest, and worship Almighty God, and keep his commandments. And to that land are all the Saints commanded to gather.

Notwithstanding the flood of persecution and opposition the church of Christ has had to contend with in this our day—she yet lives, and triumphantly rides the storm to the utter astonishment of a wicked apostate world; who have with falsehood, calumny, sword, musket, and fire, used their utmost exertions to banish the Saints from the face of the earth.

Amid these scenes of persecution and death have the servants of God left their families unprotected, save by the God of heaven; without purse or scrip gone forth—crossed sea and land—planted the standard of truth upon continents and islands, and thousands are now rejoicing in the knowledge of the gospel of Christ!

The world need no longer be in doubt and uncertainty upon that all-important subject "THE GOSPEL," for all that will obey the gospel can know for themselves whether the doctrine be of men or of God! Hence, the Saint possesses that which the world can neither give nor take away! The gospel the Latter-day Saints preach will prove a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death, to all of Adam's fallen race. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ and will save all in the presence of God, that will obey it and prove faithful to the end; While those that reject it have no promise of salvation! If you ask me upon what I found my assertion, I would answer upon the revelations of Jesus Christ, both ancient and modern, for the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Revelations given to Joseph Smith, all declare the same thing. Therefore, I am justified in making the assertion; for I am confident the Lord would not give a revelation in these days that will not accord with those he has formerly given! Therefore, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, are all as essential to the salvation of man, in this age, as they were 1800 years ago. No man could in that age be saved without giving obedience to them. Neither can he in this! I am aware those doctrines are universally rejected and despised, by priest and people, both religious and irreligious; and those that believe and practice them are belied, persecuted, and killed, as not being worthy to live. It was so in former times. For whenever the Lord has lighted up the world with the spirit of revelation, the corruption and iniquity of it has been brought to light, which has caused many to despise God and all those that keep his commandments.

If this generation will be saved, they must believe and practice the same gospel that was taught and practised by Christ when he was on the earth. Those that will do so, and gather to Zion will be saved. While those that reject the testimony of the servants of God, that have been sent forth in these last days, will, like the antediluvians, perish. For the Son of man will shortly make his appearance on the earth, not to be crucified by those who reject new revelation, as he was in the days of his flesh; but he will appear in his glory to destroy such characters from the earth,

and reign in glory over his saints. Remember, the antediluvians, and Sodom and Gomorrah perished for rejecting the revelations given immediately to them! Therefore may the history of the past be indelibly inscribed upon your minds, lest you, by neglecting the counsel of God, perish as all have in former ages, who rejected the revelations given to them? This is the dispensation of the fulness of time, in which the great work of restitution is to be performed upon the earth. Therefore, let every Saint be faithful and diligent in the work of the Lord. And you that have received the priesthood, clothe yourselves with salvation; raise your voices and testify that God has, in the last days, spoken from the heavens; that angels do minister to men on the earth; that the kingdom of God is established; and that all, both priests and people, are called upon to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. At the same time, let your example correspond with your precept. If you do so, you will have the pleasure of seeing thousands flock to the standard of truth, who will rejoice with you in the kingdom of God, and glorify the name of the Redeemer on the earth.

In conclusion, I would say to the Saints, contend for the faith that was enjoyed by the ancient worthies, and leave the world with their hireling priests to contend about their rotten systems. And while they are playing the death march of confusion, upon the discordant strings of protestantism and catholicism, the saints will rise in majesty and glory. The blasing gospel light will beam forth from Zion, and her borders will be enlarged, while her sons and daughters will enjoy the sweet communion of angels and the holy spirit, and their songs of rejoicing will ascend up to the God of Israel.

Thus shall the Saints rejoice, while the wicked are weeping and wailing for the dissolution and destruction of Babylon.

I bear my testimony to the revelations contained in the *Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants*. They are true and will be fulfilled to the letter. JOSEPH SMITH was a prophet of the most high God; he has ushered in the dispensation of the "fulness of time," and sealed his testimony with his blood; and we are enjoying the blessings of the same, and basking in the sunshine of revelations. And my prayer to God is, that we may all

continue faithful, that we may wear a crown of celestial glory, and reign with the Redeemer on the earth.

I bid you farewell, but not for ever, for if faithful, we shall all meet in Zion, and

may it be our happy lot. Praying that you may daily add to your numbers such as shall be eternally saved; that the honest in heart may be speedily gathered to Zion, even so, amen.

"SLAVERY AMONG THE SAINTS."

It is frequently asked, what are the views of the Latter-day Saints upon the subject of Slavery? As this subject is so frequently introduced, and clad with both civil and religious livery, it is thought the following explicit answer will at once serve the many. We copy from the *Frontier Guardian*, by Elder Orson Hyde.—ED.

"We feel it to be our duty to define our position in relation to the subject of Slavery. There are several men in the Valley of the Salt Lake from the Southern States, who have their slaves with them. There is no law in Utah to authorize Slavery, neither any to prohibit it. If the slave is disposed to leave his master, no power exists there, either legal or moral, that will prevent him. But if the slave choose to remain with his master, none are allowed to interfere between the master and the slave. All the slaves that are there appear to be perfectly contented and satisfied.

"When a man in the Southern States embraces our faith, and is the owner of slaves, the church says to him, if your slaves wish to remain with you, and to go with you, put them not away; but if they choose to leave you, or are not satisfied to

remain with you, it is for you to sell them, or to let them go free, as your own conscience may direct you. The church, on this point, assumes not the responsibility to direct. The laws of the land recognize slavery,—we do not wish to oppose the laws of the country. If there is sin in selling a slave, let the individual who sells him bear that sin, and not the church. Wisdom and prudence dictate to us this position, and we trust that our position will henceforth be understood.

"Our counsel to all our ministers in the North and in the South is, to avoid contention upon this subject, and to oppose no institution which the laws of the country authorize; but labour to bring men into the Church and kingdom of God, and then teach them to do right, and honor their God and his creatures."

THE SALT LAKE COUNTRY.

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath. And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon. And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills."—*Deut.*

"A correspondent of the *Rockford (Ill.) Forum*, writes from Salt Lake City in these terms, touching the country, its products and prosperity:—

"I must say a word about Wheat. For Wheat this climate beats everything that I have ever heard or dreamed of. From one bushel sowing, they have raised as high as 169 bushels; it was sowed in drills, and covered four acres. Fifty bushels here is about a fair yield to the acre.—You need not think there is any gammon about this; the Wheat tells larger stories for itself than the inhabitants. I never saw the like in any country. It is like Egypt in the seven plentiful years—the land yields by handfuls. Corn does not do well, it being too frosty; potatoes, peas, beets, carrots, onions, and vegetables generally, do well.

"I am writing at a table in the city, and the great valley lays out like a level plain before me, from 20 to 40 miles wide, and extending something like 200 miles from terminus to terminus, and thousands upon thousands of cattle feeding upon the rich bottom lands belonging to the city. Every city lot here contains 1½ acres, and each man that moves here may pay 6s. 3d. for recording the same, and then go on and build a home for his family, with nothing more to pay save his tithe money, which is one-tenth of his earnings. This goes into the Treasury for Church purposes, as well as for public works. The improvement made here in the three years